

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please substitute both the attached paper form and computer readable form Sequence Listing for those previously filed. A Statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825 is appended hereto.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 as follows:

~~Fig. 2 shows~~ Figs. 2A and 2B show the E2HV sequences for 90 HCV isolates.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 19 as follows:

A conserved motif(s) within the E2HV domain was identified by examining 90 E2HV sequences from isolates from around the world for conserved features. The HCV sequences examined are shown in ~~Fig. 2~~ Figs. 2A and 2B. The examination showed significant variability of the E2HV sequences.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20 as follows:

The sheep IgG preparations containing anti-HV E2 antibodies were prepared from sheep immunized with a peptide coupled to diphtheria toxoid. The peptide spanned the HCV1 E2HV region, and had the following sequence:

acetyl-C-B-E-T-H-V-T-G-G-S-A-G-H-T-V-S-G-F-V-S-L-L-A-P-G-A-K-Q-N-V-Q-L-acid (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein B is butyl alanine.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 25 as follows:

The results of the screening using sheep serum IgG s1634-2 and s1635-2 from sheep immunized with the conjugated 30-mer are shown in Figs. 5A and 5B. The results indicate that sheep 1634-2 IgG reacts with the minimum epitope ⁴⁰⁰VSLLA⁴⁰⁴ (SEQ ID NO:3). IgG from sheep 1635-2 has a broader reactivity profile--the sera reacts with the peptides containing the minimum ⁴⁰⁰VSLLA⁴⁰⁴ epitope, and in addition, peptides containing the minimum epitopes

⁴⁰¹SLLAPGA⁴⁰⁷ (SEQ ID NO:4) and ⁴⁰³LAPGA⁴⁰⁷ (SEQ ID NO:5). Thus, the IgG preparation from sheep immunized with the 30-mer peptide of E2HV is reactive with linear epitope(s) between amino acids 400 to 407.